

capsule, including the wings, 13-15 mm. long, 16-19 mm. wide, two of the wings semicircular or slightly bulging near the apex, the third wing with a rounded point, making it truncate on the upper side : seed oval, 0.24-0.26 mm. long and 0.15-0.17 mm. wide, brown.

It is a pleasure to name this interesting plant in honor of the collector, who spent so many months traversing the wild regions of the Andean country, and who brought back a large and valuable collection of plants.

## A FUNGUS PARASITIC ON A MOSS

BY GEORGE MASSEE

Some time ago Mrs. N. L. Britton placed in my hands for examination a moss, *Weisia viridula*, collected by Mrs. A. L. Taylor, at Thomasville, Ga., which was considered to be attacked by a parasitic fungus. On examination this assumption proved to be correct. The capsule of this moss under normal conditions is usually erect and symmetrical, but when attacked by the parasite it becomes distinctly curved and unsymmetrical.

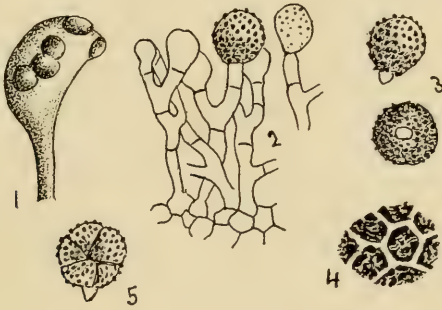
Notwithstanding the fact that over one hundred and fifty species of fungi are listed as occurring on mosses, some as parasites, others as saprophytes, the fungus under consideration belongs to *Epicoccum*, a genus not included in this list. Furthermore, the specific characters unfortunately do not conform with those of any described member of the genus, hence there appears to be no alternative to the establishment of what is usually termed "a new species," which, from its treatment of the host, must hereafter be known as *Epicoccum torquens*.

So far as observation goes *E. torquens* confines its attention to the fruit or capsule of the moss, where it forms minute, scattered or crowded, dark-colored warts.

The mycelium is strictly localized, and each pustule formed implies an independent infection; hyphae permeate the entire thickness of the wall of the capsule, but are prevented by the air cavity from reaching the spore-sac.

The genus *Epicoccum* stands in need of revision. On turning

to Saccardo's Sylloge it is found that the genus is included in the group Tubercularieae, where it ranks first in the section Amerosporae, characterized by having the conidia continuous or one-celled. Now, as a matter of fact, most of the species have many-celled conidia and technically should be included in section Dityosporae, only three or four species, including the one under consideration, having one-celled conidia. The sum-total of close affinity between the various species appears to have been too obvious to admit of their separation into two genera, placed miles apart, as would have been the case if numbers and arrangement of septa had prevailed. Saccardo, however, temporarily solved



EPICOCIMUM TORQUENS Masee

1. Capsule of *Weisia viridula* showing the parasite in situ. 2. Conidiophores originating from peripheral cells of the stroma. 3. Free conidia of *E. torquens*, side and basal views. 4. The episporium is described as minutely warted, and it appears to be so under a mag. of 400 diam.; the apparent warting is however in reality due to the episporium becoming rigid at an early stage of development, and being afterwards torn into areolae by the continued increase in size of the spore, as shown in the figure. 5. Conidium (many-celled) of *E. purpurascens* Pers. 1, slightly magnified; 2, 3, and 5,  $\times 400$ ; 4,  $\times 1200$ .

the problem by describing the many-celled conidia as having the surface "reticulated," such reticulations being in reality the lines of septa dividing the spore into several cells.

The species may be defined as follows :

***Epicoccum torquens* sp. nov.**

Stromata almost circular, convex, isolated or sometimes more or less confluent, about  $350 \mu$  diam., brownish; conidia globose, sessile, 1-celled, brown, minutely warted,  $15-20 \mu$  diam.; conid-

iophores sparingly branched, septate ; springing from the compact peripheral cells of the stroma.

Allied most nearly to *E. scabrum* Corda, in having 1-celled conidia ; differing much in the larger polygonal cells composing the stroma, the much longer, branched, septate conidiophores, and finally its parasitic habit.

ROYAL GARDENS, KEW.

## THE HOME OF DUDLEYA RUSBYI

BY H. H. RUSBY

In the North American Flora (22 : 35) the type locality of this plant is given as "near Prescott, Arizona." The mistake, perhaps copied from an inaccurate distribution label, should be corrected, especially since the species has been collected but once, and under conditions of environment quite different from those about Prescott, 200 miles to the northwest. Careful search was made on a number of occasions and in various directions, but only the little cluster of a half dozen plants first collected was ever seen. The plant is apparently a genuine rarity, and this brief description of its locality and habitat is given in the hope of aiding some future collector to rediscover it.

At Clifton, Arizona, there was, in 1881, a copper smelter, located close to the right bank of the San Francisco River, and supplied with ore brought by a short railroad from mines owned by the Leszynsky Brothers. These mines were about four miles, as I remember, from the smelter. Several miles beyond them, that is, several miles farther up the cañon, were some very rich mines owned by the Metcalfe Brothers, then undeveloped except for so much work annually as the law required for the holding of the claims. These mines were on the north side of the cañon, and included a small mountain of ore rich in native copper. Just at the base of this mountain, but in the bank on the opposite side of the cañon, was a dug-out hut, built for the accommodation of the prospectors who worked this mine. In this hut I lived in the late winter and early spring of that year, when but few plants had commenced their annual growth. The